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## News Release

Bureau of Land Management, Spokane District  
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Date: April 3, 2003

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For Immediate Release

### **Wild Horse & Burro Adoption in Yakima, May 16-18**

Yakima, Wash. - It's not every day you get a chance to adopt a wild horse or burro. You'll have that chance at the Central Washington State Fairgrounds in Yakima, May 16-18. The Bureau of Land Management is hosting a Wild Horse and Burro Adoption Event at the Yakima Fairgrounds in conjunction with the Backcountry Horsemen Annual Rendezvous. The BLM expects to have 75 wild horses and 15 burros available for adoption. The BLM is also sponsoring two wild horse gentling demonstrations by horse trainer Steve Rother during that weekend.

Potential adopters can view the animals Friday May 16, between 4:30 and 7:00 p.m. Viewing of the animals and adopter registration will take place all day Saturday May 17, from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Gentling demonstrations by Steve Rother will be held Saturday, 9 a.m.- noon and again in the afternoon from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. On Sunday, May 18, the gates will open at 8 a.m. for animal viewing and adopter registration. The oral competitive bid will start at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 18. Any animals remaining after the oral bid will be available for walk up adoption until Sunday afternoon.

Rick McComas, a Wild Horse and Burro Specialist in the BLM Spokane office, says, "The BLM is excited about hosting a Wild Horse and Burro Adoption in Yakima for the second consecutive year." McComas says that all of the animals are certified healthy and will be ready for adopters to gentle and train. They have been wormed and vaccinated, and come with a complete set of health care records to allow their new families to begin a health care program with their own veterinarian.

These wild horses and burros and their historic herds are truly unique animals. Wild horses are strong and sure-footed. They have outstanding endurance and excel at competitive events, back country-packing, pleasure riding or working on the ranch. Burros make excellent companions. They can be used for packing, pulling carts, and even protecting livestock from predators.

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To qualify to adopt a BLM wild horse or burro, adopters must be at least 18 years old. They must have the ability and financial means to care for a wild horse or burro, and have corrals and shelter that meet BLM specifications. Adult horses must be kept in a corral that measures a minimum of 400 square feet (20 by 20 feet) per animal and has a six-foot high pipe or plank fence. Five-foot fences are allowed for horses under 18-months of age, and burros require a 4.5 feet tall corral. Wire fencing is not allowed, because it is dangerous for the animals. Animals should not be released into large pastures until they can be approached, handled, haltered and led. Title to adopted animals initially remains with the federal government, but is transferred to the adopter after a year of providing good care for the animal.

Interested adopters should submit adoption applications to the Spokane BLM office, 1103 N. Fancher, Spokane, WA 99212, as soon as possible. Registration is also required at the adoption site prior to the adoption to participate in the competitive bid adoption. The minimum bid is \$125 per animal, except for jack burros that start at a minimum bid of \$25.

The BLM Adopt-a-Wild Horse or Burro program locates homes for wild horses removed from public rangelands to maintain an appropriate management level. Gathering of excess animals for adoption helps to maintain balance between wild horses and burros, native wildlife, domestic grazing, and their habitat.

**For application forms and further information on adoption requirements and bidding procedures, contact the Spokane BLM, 1103 N. Fancher, Spokane, WA. Telephone 1-800-997-2022 for recorded information or to connect to BLM staff during office hours. Some information is available online at <[www.or.blm.gov/spokane](http://www.or.blm.gov/spokane)>. Or call the nationwide toll free number for Wild Horse & Burro information at 1-866-4MUSTANGS.**

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